

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 050851Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5227

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: PROTESTANT CONCERN MOUNTING

1. REV. KIM KWAN SUK, GENERAL SECRETARY NCCC-K, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT EIGHT MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL DINE WITH PRIME MINISTER EVENING AUGUST 5. ON THAT OCCASION THEY WILL PRESENT HIM WITH STATEMENT FOR PRESIDENT PARK SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DEMANDING; (1) END OF EMERGENCY MEASURES; (2) RELEASE OF PRISONERS; (3) RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY; (4) RETRACTION OF COMMUNIST CHARGES AGAINST CHRISTIAN DEFENDANTS. ACCORDING REV. KIM BASIC PURPOSE OF TALK WITH PRIMIN IS TO PROBE EXTENT OF ROKG FLEXIBILITY AND PREPAREDNESS TO REDUCE CURRENT REPRESSION OF DISSENT.

2. NCCC-K LEADERSHIP NOT VERY HOPEFUL OF FINDING UNDERTANDING UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. LEADERS HAD WANTED TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT, BUT SINCE HE IS ON VACATION THEY ACCEPTED MEETING WITH KIM JONG-PIL.

3. REV. KIM FURTHER COMMENTED THAT NCCC-K HAS
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NEVER BEEN AS UNITED AS NOW AND POINTED OUT THAT

EVEN CONSERVATIVE METHODIST MINISTER YUN HAD SIGNED PETITION, AS WELL AS PASTOR PARK OF THE HAPDONG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, A WELL KNOWN SUPPORTER OF ROKG. AT BREAKFAST MEETING THAT MORNING KIM KWAN SUK HAD TO COUNSEL MEMBERS TO MODERATE THEIR DEMANDS AND EXPECTATIONS.

4. REV. KIM COMMENTED THAT ROK-CIA HAD TRIED VERY HARD TO OBTAIN COPY OF STATEMENT TO BE PRESENTED TO PRIMIN, BUT SAID THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE COPY IN EXISTENCE, AND THAT WAS IN HIS SAFE. HE FELT THAT IT WAS HIGHLY IMPROPER OF ROK-CIA TO SEEK TO OBTAIN ADVANCE COPY OF MESSAGE FOR PRIMIN AND PRESIDENT.

5. REV. KIM FURTHER SAID THAT IF ROKG REMAINS INTRANSIGENT ON PRISONERS AND EMERGENCY MEASURE, PROTESTANT CHURCH WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE PRESSING FOR CHANGE REGARDLESS OF CONSEQUENCE. HE HIMSELF WAS ALSO PREPARED TO TAKE INCREASING RISKS. EVERYONE NOW BANKED ON THE EFFECT OF MOUNTING FOREIGN CRITICISM TO BRING THE KOREAN LEADERSHIP TO REASON.
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